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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : William C. Hiatt, et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/039,829  
Filed : October 19, 2001  
Title : SYSTEMS AND METHOD FOR THE TREATMENT OF SOOT-LOADED WATER"  
Grp./A.U. : 1724  
Examiner : Chester, T. Barry  
Docket No. : 12053

RECEIVED  
AUG 20 2003  
GROUP 1700

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated, June 18, 2003, Applicant hereby elects the invention of claims 1-11 in Group I drawn to a waste treating method. The election is made with traverse on the basis that all inventions require overlapping searches.

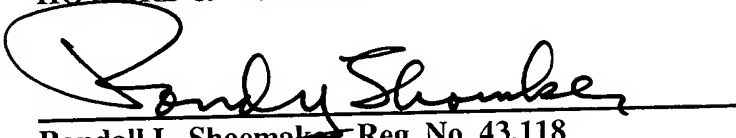
There is no change in the inventorship by virtue of this election.

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

August 11, 2003  
Date

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2003.

  
Nina Moats